

# Hertford County Highlights

Quarterly Newsletter

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## North Carolina's New Tag & Tax System

The North Carolina General Assembly passed a new law to create a combined motor vehicle registration renewal and property tax collection system (Tag & Tax System). In doing so, the new law transfers the responsibility for motor vehicle tax collection from the 100 counties across North Carolina to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

North Carolina's new Tag & Tax System has been designed as a convenient way to pay annual vehicle tag renewals and vehicle property taxes.

If your address is current with the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, you will receive a Tag & Tax Notice listing both vehicle registration fees and taxes due. Just as in the past, vehicle owners will receive the notice about 60 days prior to their vehicle's registration expiration.

**The full amount of property taxes and DMV registration fees must be paid in full, to the DMV, before a registration renewal sticker can be issued.**

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# Tag & Tax Together

## North Carolina's New Vehicle Tag and Tax Together Program

North Carolina's new vehicle Tag and Tax Together program was designed to collect vehicle property taxes along with registration renewals and to conveniently pay them together.

If the address on your vehicle registration is current, you will receive a statement that lists both vehicle registration fees and taxes due. Vehicle owners will receive this statement about 60 days prior to their vehicle's registration expiration.

Beginning in 2013, your annual vehicle inspection, registration renewal and vehicle property tax will be due the same month each year. Only one payment – made either in person, online or by mail – is required to pay both the annual tag and tax for your vehicle (Inspection fees are still paid to the inspection station).

### What's the reason for the change?

The North Carolina General Assembly passed [House Bill 1779](#), creating what we call the Tag and Tax Together program – a more streamlined method for vehicle owners to pay their registration and vehicle taxes. Beginning in 2013, annual registration fees and vehicle property taxes will be paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles. In turn, the DMV will distribute the taxes to the appropriate counties.

### What changes with the passage of this legislation?

Prior to this change, vehicle registration fees and vehicle property taxes have been billed and paid separately. Each county has been responsible for managing vehicle tax collections, while DMV collects registration fees.

In mid-2013, DMV will begin sending out registration renewal notices that invoice the vehicle tax due along with the registration fee. The fees are listed separately, but will be due at the same time. The total amount due on the combined statement will be payable to NCDMV. As before, you can pay online, through the mail or in person at a license plate agency near you.



### When does the new Tag and Tax system take effect?

The new system will be phased in with the vehicle registration renewals that are due in mid-2013. By mid-2014, all North Carolina vehicles will be incorporated into the system.

### What will be different about my annual renewal notice?

The new renewal notice combines the information about your vehicle registration renewal fee and the vehicle property tax due. The new notice includes separate contact information for registration questions and for tax questions. The new Tag and Tax Together program allows you to make one convenient payment to NCDMV for both registration renewal and vehicle property tax. NCDMV will forward the property tax portion of your payment directly to your county revenue department.

### I pay my property tax with my mortgage. Does the new system include my home or mortgage property tax?

The new Tag and Tax Together program is for your vehicle property tax only and does not affect your mortgage or home property tax.

### Will anyone have to pay vehicle property taxes more than once in a tax year?

No owner will have to pay taxes twice in the same tax year for the same vehicle. It is important to look at the vehicle property tax year rather than the calendar year. By law, the tax year for your vehicle begins on the first day of the first month following the date your previous registration expires or the new registration is applied for. While it is possible to pay twice in a calendar year, no vehicle owner will pay twice in the same tax year or for the same 12-month period.

### When is my vehicle tax due?

Your vehicle tax will be due at the same time your vehicle registration is due. The due date will be printed on the new renewal notice that you receive in the mail.

### How should I pay both fees?

You no longer have to pay the fees separately. You will pay both fees through the NCDMV:

- **Online:** Go the Vehicle Registration Renewal page and pay with your credit or check card
- **By mail:** Send a check or money order to the address listed on your renewal notice\*
- **In person:** Go to a license plate agency near you

\*If your mailing address has changed since your last registration renewal, the tax amount may need to be recalculated. If this is the case, do not mail your payment in. Contact your county tax office to see if your tax amount needs to be recalculated.

# Tag & Tax Together

## Will my vehicle registration renewal fee remain the same?

Yes. Your vehicle's annual registration renewal fees will remain the same. The increase in your bill is from the addition of the vehicle property tax.

## Do I still need to have my car inspected before I can renew my registration?

Yes. Your vehicle must pass an annual safety and/or emissions inspection before the registration is renewed. As in previous years, you may have your vehicle inspected as early as 90 days before your registration renewal is due.

## How will I know how much property tax I owe?

Information about your property tax will be included on the combined notice, along with your county and municipality tax rates and other applicable taxes due.

## Can I renew my vehicle registration without paying my property tax?

No. You cannot renew your motor vehicle's registration unless the total taxes and registration fees on the vehicle are paid at the same time.

## Are the vehicle property taxes for the coming year or the preceding year?

Taxes due on the combined notice are for the coming year, covering the same period as the vehicle registration.

## Will I receive a notice if I have moved since my previous vehicle registration renewal?

If you reported your new address to NCDMV, you should receive your tag and tax notice at your new address. If you did not notify NCDMV of your new address, you may not receive the renewal notice.

If you have moved since your last renewal, your vehicle property tax may need to be recalculated. **DO NOT SEND YOUR RENEWAL AND PAYMENT BY MAIL. YOU WILL NEED TO VISIT YOUR LOCAL LICENSE PLATE AGENCY TO RECEIVE A CORRECTED TAG AND TAX FEE.** You can change your address by visiting your local license plate agency or by requesting a duplicate registration card online.

## Will I owe vehicle property taxes on a newly purchased vehicle?

Yes. You may pay vehicle property taxes at the time you register your vehicle. However, if you choose not to pay these taxes at the time you register your newly purchased vehicle, you will receive a Limited Registration and Property Tax Notice stating the amount of the vehicle property taxes due. You will receive a limited registration sticker that will expire after 60 days if the vehicle's property taxes are not paid in full.

## What will happen if I don't pay the registration and vehicle tax by the due date?

Interest will be charged on late vehicle property tax payments and on late registration renewals. Your vehicle will also be subject to citation if it is driven after the tags expire.

## Can I pay my vehicle property tax at my county tax office?

Once your vehicle becomes part of the Tag and Tax Together program and you have received the combined notice, you will no longer be able to pay your vehicle tax at your county tax office.

## Where can I get more information about the vehicle property tax?

Contact your county tax office for more information.

## Who should I contact if I have questions about my vehicle property tax?

Contact information for your county's tax office is on your Tag and Tax renewal notice, or refer to this list of county tax offices.

## Who should I contact if I have questions about my vehicle registration?

If you have DMV-related questions about your vehicle registration under the Tag & Tax Together program, please call (919) 814-1779.





## Departmental Highlights

## HERTFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Groundbreaking will be Friday, March 22, 2013. Opening remarks will be at 11:00 am in the Hertford County Commissioners' Meeting Room, followed by the actual groundbreaking on site. Please come out and join us in this momentous occasion.



### Economic Development / Planning and Zoning



Congratulations to Bill Early, Executive Director of Hertford County Economic Development Commission. The Northeast Economic Developers ("NEED") group recognized Bill Early as Economic Developer of the Year at the State of the Region Event on March 1, 2013 in Williamston at the

Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center. Economic Developers from the 16 counties of North Carolina's Northeast Region meet monthly to discuss economic development projects and to plan regional marketing efforts. The group supports each other as they work together to build the regional economy. Bill Early, Executive Director of the Hertford County Economic Development Commission serves as the Chair. Bill Early is also the Hertford County Planning and Zoning Administrator.



### Register of Deeds

LOVE is in the air! With the smell of fresh flowers and green grass, comes our most popular time of year for issuing marriage licenses! Last year our office issued 161 Applications for Marriage Licenses. To receive an application for marriage license both applicants must appear and present identification consisting of a current driver's license or state ID, along with verification of their Social Security number. Date of divorce or date of death of previous spouse is required where applicable. Applications are issued from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm for a fee of \$60.00 and is valid for 60 days from the date of issuance. Call the Register of Deeds office or visit our website for more information.

## March is Social Workers Month

Hertford County Department of Social Services would like to take the opportunity to thank and recognize the following social workers for Social Worker's Month:

**Betz Blowe**

**Debbie Brinkley**

**Wendy Davis**

**Linda Freeman**

**Stephanie Gatling**

**Stephanie Miller-Gay**

**Patricia Grant**

**Lorraine Holloman**

**Christy Hodges**

**Geneene Lassiter**

**Tammi Lewter**

**Juanita Manley**

**Kathy Moore**

**Rhonda Morris**

**Latashia Newsome**

**Lisa Vinson Pope**

**Clara Riddick**

**Kashana Vaughan**

**Tiffany Walton**

**Jacqueline White**



**Happy Social Worker's Month!!!**



# Spring cleaning

## For Your FINANCES

***The first day of spring*** - For many, that means setting a weekend aside for a thorough cleaning and reorganization of the house. But don't stop there! Spring is also a great time to get your financial house in order. Follow these five tips and you'll be well on your way.

***Sort and shred*** - While you do want to hold on to some documents, like tax returns (hold seven years), many papers you think you need can actually be tossed once a year, like receipts, bank and credit card statements and utility bills. Also, when new Social Security and 401(k) statements arrive, the old ones can go. Remember to never just throw these papers in the trash. Prevent the possibility of identity theft by shredding them first.



***Get organized*** - What's the point of keeping important papers if you can't find them? Try filing. Simply make two folders: one for regularly accessed papers, like bank statements and bills, and another for documents you handle less frequently, such as the deed to your home and insurance policies. Every year during spring cleaning, simply go through the files throwing away what you can, while moving what you need to keep to more permanent storage, like a plastic bin.

***Go paperless*** - Cut down on the amount of paper you get by signing up for e-statements with your financial institution or utility company, for example. This way, information you need is sent to your e-mail or is available online. Not only will this significantly reduce clutter, but it also cuts down on the potential for identity theft.

***Cut down on cards*** - The average American carries five to 10 credit cards. With this many, you're at a much greater risk of overspending. Begin by cutting up spare credit cards and store cards, being sure the accounts are in good standing. Don't close several accounts at once and keep those with the best terms and rates.

***Revisit your savings and retirement plan*** - Once a year, it's a good idea to look over your investment portfolios and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to make sure you're still on target given current market conditions. Reassess your attitude toward risk, and take into account any changes from the past year, such as number of dependents.

Clean and tidy financial records are just as important as a clean and tidy house—and they probably take less time! The next time you're able to find a document in a crunch, you'll be glad you added finances to your spring cleaning agenda.

### School of Government Scholarship

This scholarship is for local government employees to apply towards tuition for conferences, classes, and seminars offered by the School of Government (SOG). The Credit Union supports the SOG because of the instrumental role it serves in the professional development of our membership. Application deadline dates are April 1, August 1, and December 1. Applications received after a deadline will go into consideration for the following application period. [Click Here for more Information.](#)





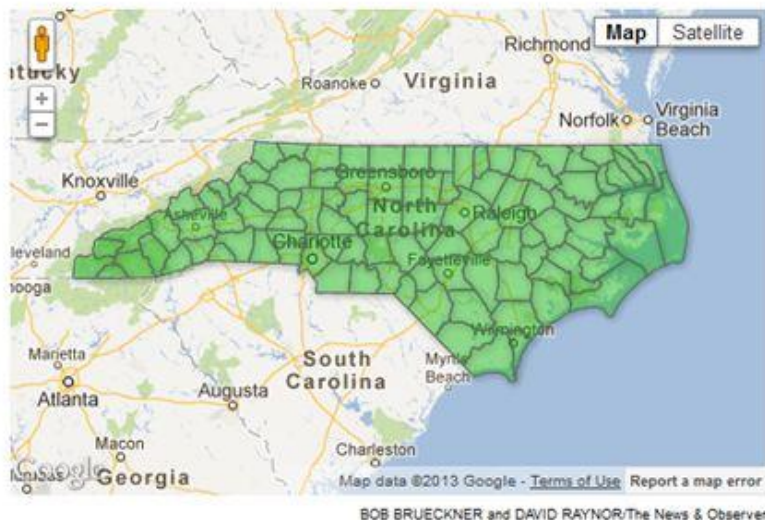
# NC FAST

North Carolina Families Accessing  
Services through Technology

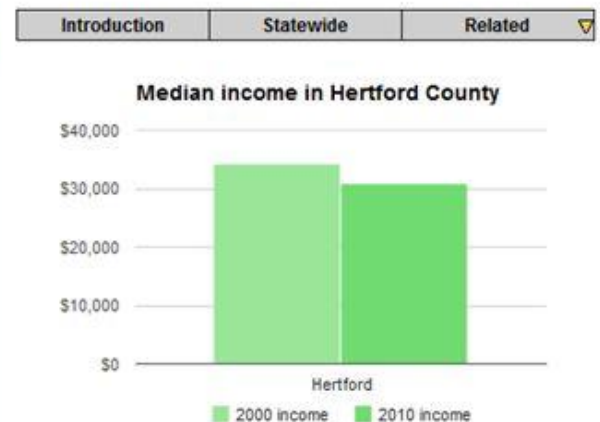
The second phase of NC FAST rollout will involve Medicaid. The NC FAST (North Carolina Families Accessing Services Through Technology) Program is designed to improve the way the Departments of Social Services across the State utilize technology to reduce the time spent performing administrative tasks and increase the time devoted to assisting families. The second phase will involve the Eligibility Information System, which is used for processing Medicaid. This portion of NC FAST includes screening, intake, eligibility determination, and benefits issued. Hertford County's Medicaid staff will be attending training in July & August prior to NC FAST implementation in the fall of 2013.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the nation's health reform law enacted in March 2010. It contains provisions that will expand health coverage to approximately 30 million Americans. The ACA calls for a nationwide expansion of Medicaid eligibility that is scheduled to begin in 2014. Under the law, nearly all U.S. citizens up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level will qualify for Medicaid under the expansion. The News & Observer stated in 2012, the Federal Poverty Level of up to 133% was represented by a family of four with earnings of \$30,675.00 annually. The median household for Hertford County residents was cited as \$ 30,878.00 annually by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Median household income in North Carolina counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



While it was originally mandatory for states to expand Medicaid coverage under the Act, the Supreme Court ruled in June of 2012 that it is now optional. For the (estimated 1.2 million) uninsured North Carolina residents who do not or will not receive coverage through Medicaid, there will be the option of purchasing health insurance through an online marketplace called an exchange. For Hertford County, this represents approximately 18.5% of the county's population, who are currently uninsured per The News & Observer.



# NC FAST

North Carolina Families Accessing  
Services through Technology

Under the exchange, participants can begin enrolling in insurance plans in October 2013, but coverage will not begin until January 1, 2014. North Carolina residents will utilize a Federal government exchange if North Carolina does not establish its own.

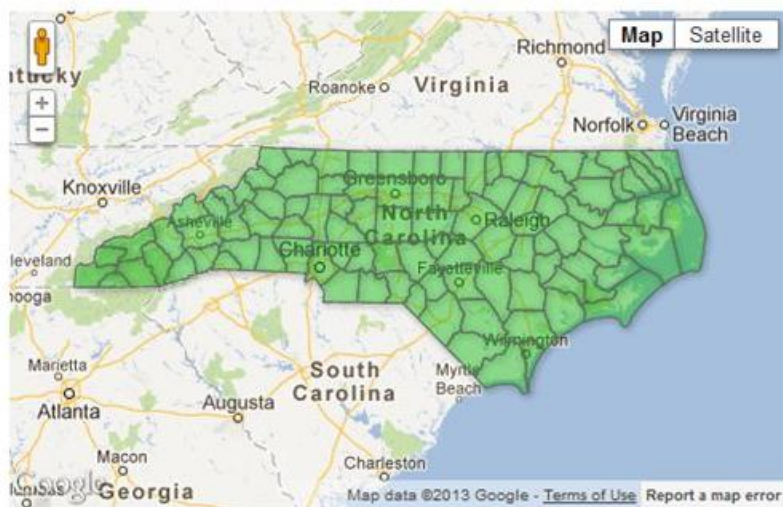
When phase 2 of NC FAST is fully implemented, the Program will help DSS employees determine if indi-

viduals are eligible for Medicaid or if they will need to look to the exchange for insurance. The estimated number of individuals seeking assistance for healthcare coverage under either Medicaid or the healthcare exchange, indicate that Hertford County DSS will see an increased number of customers accessing healthcare coverage. The full implementation of NC FAST, and current policy simplification efforts, will help to assure staff is able to attend to the needs of the whole person, process less paperwork, and assist more customers more effectively.

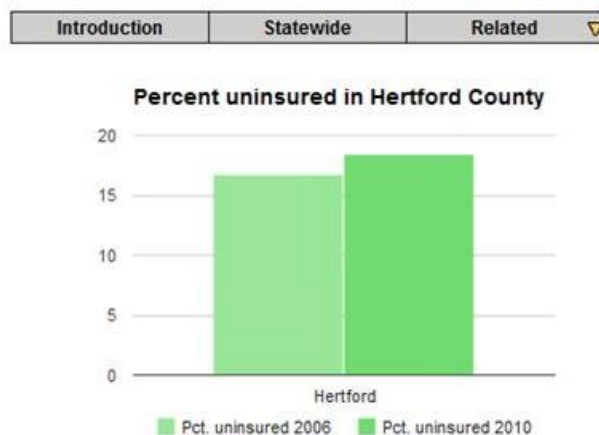
At this time an individual can apply for Medicaid and NC Health Choice (NCHC) through e-PASS. The public can go to the Hertford County Department of Social Services website and complete an application. The website address is [hertfordcountync.gov](http://hertfordcountync.gov), once you are there click on departments and scroll down to Social Services and you will have the home page for Hertford County Department of Social Service. e-PASS is on this website, just click on e-pass and follow the directions to print the application. Customers can also apply for Food and Nutrition Services using e-PASS.

-Submitted by Kathy Richmond

## Percent of population without health insurance in N.C. counties



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# SAFETY FIRST!!!

Developing a “safety attitude” is much like developing a “good driving attitude” or a “healthy eating attitude” or a “positive attitude.”

Having a safety attitude when working in your own home or your office can pay off in a number of ways... keeping you healthy, working and able to enjoy the next day. How do you maintain a safety attitude?

- ◆ Focus on the task you are doing.
- ◆ Get plenty of sleep at night so that you are rested and able to focus.
- ◆ Take the time needed to do the job correctly and safely. Often this is only an extra few minutes or seconds.
- ◆ Be a good time manager. Make lists to help you remember.
- ◆ Beware of shortcuts. They are often unsafe.
- ◆ Have the personal strength to do what is right. After all, you want people to do that for you.
- ◆ Be responsible for your actions. If you make a mistake, admit it. We learn from our mistakes.
- ◆ Think of those coming after you and help to keep them safe. (Clean up broken glass, tape down a curled up rug, move things people can trip over, clean up things people can slip on, etc.)
- ◆ Consider what taking a risk can mean. Usually risks are not worth it.
- ◆ Ask questions if you are ever unsure of the safe way to perform a job.

You are an important person to your family, your clients, your employer and others. Take care of yourself.

## April Is Stress Awareness Month

The definition of stress can mean different things to different people. Many people have different feelings about it and have many causes for it as well. It is hard to pinpoint just what stress is, but is something that can affect the body and the mind of just about anyone. Stress is usually considered the buildup of anxiety and pressures on any given person. There is only so much pressure that one person can handle and stress will occur when the person has had their fill of it. Stress is not necessarily a dangerous thing. It is only a problem when the person who is under a great deal of stress can no longer function and is letting it get the best of them.

The concept of job stress is often confused with *challenge*, but these concepts are not the same. Challenge energizes us psychologically and physically, and it motivates us to learn new skills and master our jobs. When a challenge is met, we feel relaxed and satisfied. But when the challenge has not been met, it turns into job demands that cannot be met. Relaxation has turned to exhaustion, and a sense of satisfaction has turned into feelings of stress. In short, the stage is set for illness, injury, and job failure.

During the month of April, health care professionals and health promotion experts across the country will annually join forces to increase public awareness about both the causes and cures for our modern stress epidemic. Sponsored by The Health Resource Network (HRN), a non-profit health education organization, **Stress Awareness Month** is a national, cooperative effort to inform people about the dangers of stress, successful coping strategies, and harmful misconceptions about stress that are prevalent in our society.



Current members of the Hertford County Highlights committee are: Crystal Askew, Crystal Smith, Ivy Boyce, Jackie White, Josephine Green, Sandy Brock, Sara Turner, Shelia Matthews and Tonya Freeman. If you have an interesting story, event or subject you would like for us to cover, please contact us!



# ***“Each One, Save One”***



*The month of April is fast approaching! The Hertford County Department of Social Services would like to cordially invite you to our first 3K walk for Child Abuse Prevention on April 6, 2013 at approximately 10:00am. The month of April is designated in the prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. In 1983, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Since then, April has been a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse. As a result, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country during April of each year. The purpose of the walk is to increase public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of all children.*

*Our theme for the prevention walk is “Each One, Save One” in the safety of all children. The walk will start at the Recreational Soccer field located at 700 West Main Street in Ahoskie, NC across from the Ahoskie Police Department. We are asking everyone to please wear royal blue in representation of Child Abuse Prevention. Please save the date for an event that is to support all children who may have been abused or neglected. We are asking you as a community to come together showing your support in making the efforts to support the well being and safety of all children.*

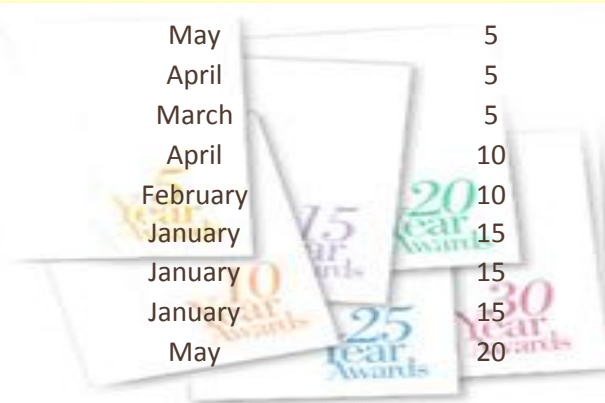
*If you have any further questions please contact Brenda Brown, Supervisor at 1-252-358-7830(ext 3558) or Jacqueline White at 1-252-358-7830(ext3512).*



*Recognizing those employees with 5 year increments of service*

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE**

EMPLOYEE NAME	DEPARTMENT	Month	YEARS OF SERVICE
John Howell	EMS	May	5
Rebecca Davidson	Tax Collector	April	5
Lydia Davis	Social Services	March	5
Myllinda Eure	Library	April	10
Cassandra Hart	Jail	February	10
Gilbert Stephen	Public Works	January	15
Juan Vaughan	Sheriff Dept	January	15
Vernon Pope	Public Buildings	January	15
Kitty Askew	Social Services	May	20





**Angela Brown**  
Social Services Department

**"I'm stronger because of my hard times, wiser because of my mistakes, and happier because of my sad experiences."**

**◆ Are you a Hertford County native? If not, where did you move from, and when did you relocate to this area? If neither, where do you reside?**

*No, I am not a Hertford County native. I currently reside in Colerain which is in Bertie County "Home of the Mighty Falcons".*

**◆ What are your hobbies or interests?**

*My interest is spending time with family and friends. As I get older, I'm realizing just how precious life is and tomorrow is not promised to any of us. Therefore, I treasure every moment I am able to spend with family and friends.*

**◆ If there was one thing that you could change in this area or would like to see added, what would it be and why?**

*I would have to say I would love to see more entertainment brought to the area. For instance, a place to go bowling because there are many families that travel outside of Hertford County for entertainment. Whereas if the area had such entertainment, that could possibly keep the money earned in the county.*

**◆ What is something that you find attractive or a must see in Hertford County?**

*I find the Town Park located right here in Winton to be a must see because from that area you are able to look out at the water as well as watch traffic crossing the Winton Bridge.*

# Hertford County Highlights Presents The Employee Spotlight



**Leon Eason**  
Hertford County Sheriff's Office

**"Live and let live"**

**◆ Are you a Hertford County native? If not, where did you move from, and when did you relocate to this area? If neither, where do you reside?**

*I am a native of Hertford County.*

**◆ What are your hobbies or interests?**

*I enjoy riding horses, motorcycles and watching sports.*

**◆ If there was one thing that you could change in this area or would like to see added, what would it be and why?**

*If I add something to Hertford County, it would be an area like Mount Trashmore in Virginia Beach, Va. I love the way families can go there and spend a day whether cooking out or just enjoying each other's company.*

**◆ What is something that you find attractive or a must see in Hertford County?**

*The fall of the year when the leaves are changing colors over the river in Winton is very scenic.*



**Donnell Cooper**  
Solid Waste Department

**"I like helping others."**

- ◆ **Are you a Hertford County native? If not, where did you move from, and when did you relocate to this area? If neither, where do you reside?**

*No, I am not a Hertford County native. I currently reside in Windsor, NC.*

- ◆ **What are your hobbies or interests?**

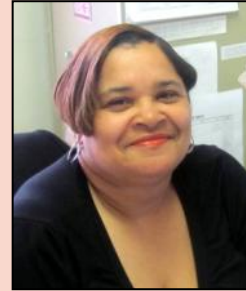
*I enjoy playing basketball and riding my motorcycles.*

- ◆ **If there was one thing that you could change in this area or would like to see added, what would it be and why?**

*I would have to see a park and zoo like the one in Windsor so people can take children to visit and enjoy the picnic areas.*

- ◆ **What is something that you find attractive or a must see in Hertford County?**

*When the Super Wal-Mart Is completed, I think people will find it a must see in Hertford County.*



**Patty Monger Ricks**  
Social Services  
Work First Family  
Assistance Caseworker

**I will give you peace and quietness.**

**1 Chronicles 16:11**

**"I am a peaceful and quiet person until spiritual warfare time."**

- ◆ **Are you a Hertford County native? If not, where did you move from, and when did you relocate to this area? If neither, where do you reside?**

*Yes, I am a Hertford County native. I was born and reared in Como and still reside there with my daughter, Moriah and granddaughter, Sa'riah.*

- ◆ **What are your hobbies or interests?**

*What interests me is enjoying my four children and granddaughter along with being part of my church ministry. I love lifting up the name of Jesus with others. I also like traveling to Winston Salem State University to pick up my daughter Elisabeth; which makes her day to come home. I enjoy working for DSS because it allows me to assist people in need and just knowing that I have made their circumstance a little better.*

- ◆ **If there was one thing that you could change in this area or would like to see added, what would it be and why?**

*The one thing that I would like to see added is more entertainment like a skating rink for our children. There is not enough positive things for them to do without getting in trouble due to being bored. One change would be to not have so many restaurants in Murfreesboro and have factories for jobs for the unemployed. We have enough eating places but not enough jobs. I'm thankful for law enforcement, but another change I would like is if they would not intimidate drivers by tailgating for no reason.*

- ◆ **What is something that you find attractive or a must see in Hertford County?**

*Being I enjoy calmness and peacefulness, I would say the Chowan River in Winton is a must see to enjoy when you want to see a work of God or just enjoy the peace and calmness. I work in the Ahoskie office but when I go to work in Winton office, I make it my business to spend my lunch break at the river.*



# Asparagus

## The Jolly Green Giant of Spring Vegetables

One of the first – and most treasured – delicacies of spring is fresh asparagus. Although not a traditional Southern food, the diversifying population of North Carolina and the revival of culinary sophistication and healthy eating, prompted in part by the local foods movement, ensure asparagus its place at the table. These tender beauties always remind The Produce Lady that delicious springtime produce is back.

**Nutrition:** Asparagus is historically known as a medicinal food. The Greeks believed asparagus was an herbal medicine, which, among other things, would cure toothaches and prevent bee stings. Claims for medicinal benefits of asparagus persist to this day, most likely because there is truth to the nutritional attributes of asparagus. It is a nutrient-dense food which is low in calories, high in fiber, rich with potassium and a good source of folic acid. The vegetable contains vitamin B6, vitamins A and C, and thiamin. A five ounce serving (about five spears) has no fat, contains no cholesterol and is low in calories and sodium. Any way you cut it, asparagus is a key ingredient in a healthy diet.



**Selection & Storage:** Asparagus can be found in many N.C. farmers markets during the spring months. You may be accustomed to the green stalks, but keep an eye open for special varieties of asparagus that may be purple or white when shopping the market. Contrary to popular perception, size is not an indication of tenderness; color is the best gauge of asparagus quality. When selecting green varieties, a brighter green color is a sign of goodness. Remember, “green is for go.” The tips should be closed and compact while the cut ends will be moist. Firm stalks are another indicator of good quality asparagus. One pound of chopped asparagus yields about three cups, so make sure to shop smart and buy enough. To store, stand the fresh stalks in an inch of water (or wrap the cut ends in wet paper towels) to maintain freshness. As with most fresh produce, keep asparagus refrigerated until time to prepare. Asparagus will

keep for a week to 10 days with little loss of quality. *See a demonstration on how to select, store and prepare asparagus at [www.theproducelady.org](http://www.theproducelady.org).*

**Preparation:** Before preparing, gently rinse the asparagus in a large bowl to remove any soil. Break off the tougher part of the stem near the bottom where it snaps naturally. Although asparagus is usually cooked, it can be eaten raw with a dip or as part of a salad or vegetable tray. This versatile vegetable is good grilled or roasted until lightly browned; steamed or boiled in a small amount of water just until crisp tender; and even microwaved in a covered dish with water for three to five minutes. Remember that asparagus will continue to cook for a while after it is removed from the heat. To stir-fry asparagus, cut the stems diagonally into one-inch pieces, leaving the tips whole, and cook with a little oil for three to five minutes.

## Asparagus Cheese Toast

This recipe makes for a good lunch or dinner dish, but easily translates into hors d’oeuvres by spreading the asparagus-cheese mixture on toast rounds or triangles instead of whole slices.

### Directions:

Trim asparagus and cut diagonally into 1/2-inch pieces. You should have about one cup. Cook bacon in frying pan and drain on paper towels. Add onion to bacon grease in pan (if using low-fat or turkey bacon, add oil) and saut. until wilted. Add asparagus and stir-fry for two minutes, until crisp tender. (If using leftover asparagus, slice it as directed above and do not cook any further.) With a slotted spoon, transfer asparagus and onion to a mixing bowl, discarding as much bacon grease as possible. Cut cooked bacon into bits and add to bowl along with grated cheese. In a separate smaller bowl, mix together beaten egg, Worcestershire sauce and tomato sauce. Pour into cheese mixture and blend well. Add pepper. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Divide asparagus-cheese mixture evenly and spread on toast slices. Place on aluminum foil in a jelly-roll pan. Bake for 10 minutes, then place under the broiler briefly to brown the top.

### Ingredients:

- 1/4 lb. asparagus
- 4 slices bacon
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1/2 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp. tomato sauce
- Black pepper, to taste
- 6 slices bread, toasted

-Article and recipe taken from The Produce Lady at [www.theproducelady.org](http://www.theproducelady.org).

-Article submitted by: Stephanie Parker-Helmkamp, Family and Consumer Sciences Area Agent, Cooperative Extension Service.

# Easter Trivia

Email your answers to

[ivy.boyce@hertfordcountync.gov](mailto:ivy.boyce@hertfordcountync.gov)

The first person who correctly gets all 10 right will win a \$10 gift card!!!

1. The Easter Lily symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus because:

- (a) It blooms in the spring
- (b) It comes from a shell buried in the earth and emerges
- (c) It's white and pure
- (d) All of the above

2. What kind of tail does the Easter bunny assumed to have?

3. In the song, "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" he's got jelly beans for who?

4. When a female rabbit gives birth to her babies they are called:

- (a) Bunnies
- (b) Kits
- (c) Kids
- (d) Youngs

5. The ringing of bells on Easter was:

- (a) To let you know the fast was over
- (b) A celebration of the holiday
- (c) To frighten evil spirits away
- (d) All of the above



6. Purple is a common color for Easter. In the ancient world the purple dye came from where?

- (a) Violets
- (b) Grapes
- (c) Shellfish
- (d) Crushed amethyst rocks

7. The work "Lent" means:

- (a) To live without
- (b) To let go
- (c) Lengthening days
- (d) To live again

## The Answers to Autumn Trivia are:

- |            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. LIGHT   | 7. HALLOWEEN AND THANKSGIVING  |
| 2. MARCH   | 8. SQUASH AND CANDY            |
| 3. FRENCH  | 9. THERE IS LESS LIGHT         |
| 4. SADNESS | 10. TRUE                       |
| 5. FALL    | 11. HARVEST                    |
| 6. HARVEST | 12. 23 <sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER |

## The Answers to "Who Am I" are:

- 1. Tax Assessor
- 2. Clerk to the Board

8. True or False? If you don't wear at least one new article of clothing on Easter it is considered bad luck.

9. To light a candle on Easter is to symbolize what?

- (a) After darkness come light
- (b) Sunrise
- (c) Sunset
- (d) Jesus' rising from the dead

10. How long will a boiled egg keep in the refrigerator?

- (a) 24 hours
- (b) 3 days
- (c) 1 week
- (d) They don't need refrigeration once cooked

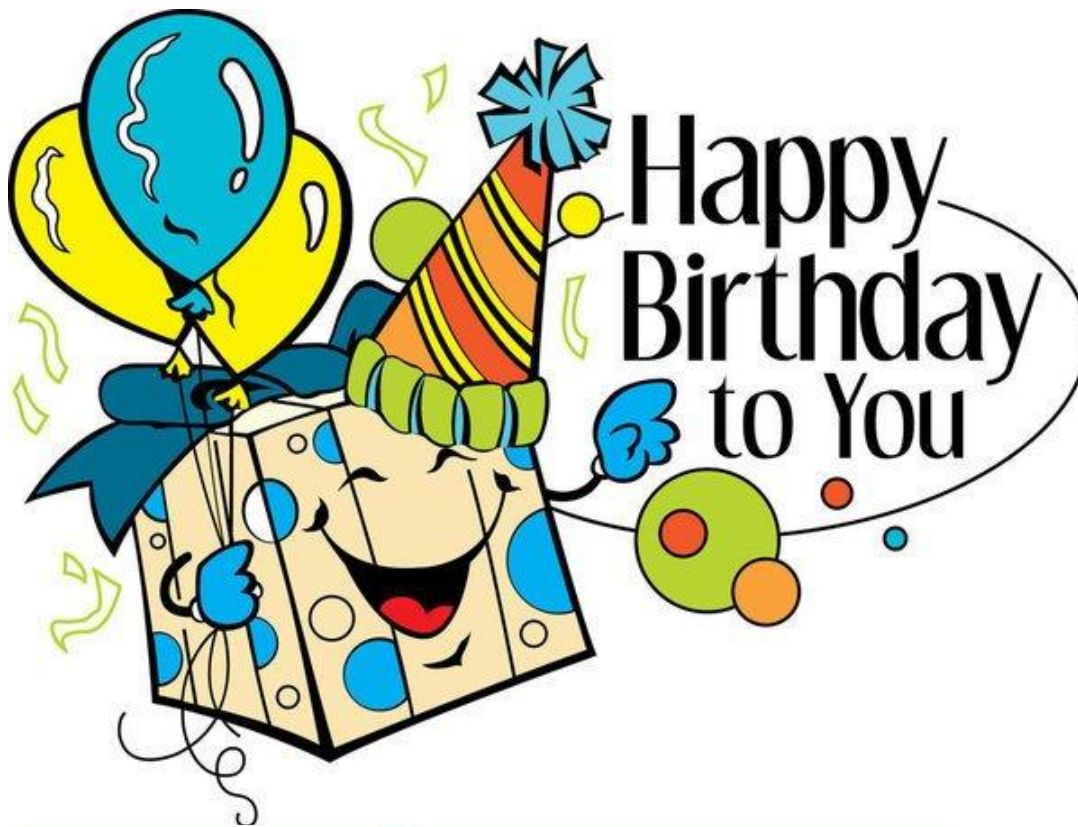
## The Answers to Christmas Trivia are:

- 1. Robbie
- 2. Dunder
- 3. Tree Topper
- 4. Dec. 8
- 5. Cranberries
- 6. 100
- 7. Robert L May
- 8. Punishment
- 9. Christmas
- 10. Town of Ahsokie

**Congratulations to  
Bill Early, Jaime  
Ambrose and Kathy  
Richmond for  
getting the correct  
answers!**





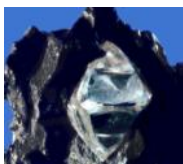


# Birthstones

The first association of a special gem with each month was recorded in the Bible, in Exodus 28 and 39. An original breastplate of the High Priest of the Hebrews was said to be made by Moses in 1250 BC, according to instructions he received during 40 days in the mountains. The 12 gems in the breastplate were later linked with the signs of the zodiac, and later still associated with the months in the year. To those who celebrate birthdays this season, here is a look at your birthstones!

## APRIL

April's birthstone, the diamond, is a symbol of enduring love.



## MAY

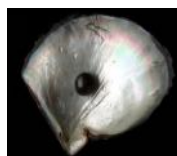
People in the Middle Ages believed that May's birthstone, the emerald, held the



power to foretell the future.

## JUNE

June has three traditional birthstones – pearl, moonstone, and Alexandrite.



The Hertford County Highlights team, in an effort to respect the privacy of all the Hertford County Employees, has decided that the names of individuals will no longer be posted on the birthday page in the newsletter. However, we still want to wish each and every one of you all a VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

Age is strictly  
a case of  
mind over  
matter. If you  
don't mind,  
it doesn't  
matter."

-Jack Benny





# Calendar of Events

Hertford County Highlights

ISSUE 04 April - June 2013



**March 29th** - Good Friday (Hertford County Offices will be closed)

**March 30<sup>th</sup>** - Come fun, come all! Everyone is invited to come and enjoy our 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Easter Egg Hunt held at the Ahoskie Creek Recreational Complex. It's going to be a FUN-filled day with the Easter Bunny, the Official Easter Egg Hunt, games, and REFRESHMENTS..and the best part?..The Easter Bunny! (oh yes, and it's FREE!). Please come out and enjoy this family-fun event with the community!

**March 31st** - Easter

**April 10th** - Community Outreach Day 9:00 am - 3:00 PM - Main street in Murfreesboro across from McDonald's. Come out to receive assistance and information on several Social Services programs.

**April 22nd** - Earth Day



**May 4<sup>th</sup>** - Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm. Hold this date for the most fun day of the year, the 4-H May Day Walk and Bike Rodeo! Bring your walking shoes, or bike and helmet, and come on down to Winton for this healthy, all age, family friendly event. Entry Fee is \$10 per individual, \$20 per family. The funds raised during this event will go to the Hertford County 4-H scholarship fund, which helps send kids to camp, keep program fees low, and assists in providing unique leadership opportunities to the 4-H'ers that we serve.

**May 12th** - Mother's Day



**May 18<sup>th</sup>** - The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual ROANOKE·CHOWAN PORK·FEST will be held at the Jefcoat Museum located at 201 West High Street in Murfreesboro. Admission includes all events and the BBQ MEAL. Advance tickets are being offered for a price of \$10. Tickets are available at the Murfreesboro Historical Association office in the Roberts-Vaughan House on Main Street Monday through Friday during 9am to 4 pm, at the Jefcoat Museum on Saturday & Sunday or through any museum volunteer. To order by mail, make checks payable to Murfreesboro Historical Association and indicate the number of tickets needed. Mail to Pork-Fest Tickets, 512 Woodridge Drive, Murfreesboro, NC 27855. Questions can be directed to Colon Ballance, 910-358-1202. PORK-FEST IS AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG-FREE EVENT.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** - PAWSFEST 2013 will be held across from the New Ahoskie Police Department on West Main Street from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. The fun filled day will include a Dog Walk, Dog Show, Rabies Clinic and Micro-Chipping. There will also be demonstrations to include: Therapy, Agility and Search and Rescue, Pet Education. Low cost spay/neuter information, Cat/kitten adoptions and education, Hotdogs, Refreshments, Snow Cones, Bake Sale, Homemade Dog Treats, Pet Photos, Pony rides, Retail Sales Tent, Raffles.

**June 14th** - Flag Day



**June 16th** - Father's Day

**June 16-21st - Summer Camp at 4-H Eastern Center** - Interested in learning lifelong skills and creating life-long friendships? Join Hertford County 4-H at the 4-H Eastern Center in Columbia, NC from June 16<sup>th</sup> through June 21<sup>st</sup>. Kids aged 8 – 14 will never forget this incredible camping experience. For more info, please call Caroline at 358-7822. Cost: \$410. **Get your \$75 deposit in today. Spaces fill up FAST!**

